

**NSC BRIEFING**

**23 October 1957**

**SOUTH VIETNAM**

- I. Consensus of Vietnamese and American officials in Saigon is that Viet Minh agents were responsible for 22 October bombings which wounded 13 American military personnel.**
- A. Although no arrests have yet been reported, South Vietnamese security forces claim they have traced terrorists to members of local Communist-penetrated labor union.**
- II. Saigon outrages were forecast by President Diem last month when he informed Ambassador Durbrow that he possessed documentary evidence, [REDACTED] that the Viet Minh intended to step-up terrorist activities and attack Americans.**
- A. [REDACTED] these attacks would coincide with the Colombo Plan conference now in session in Saigon.**
- III. [REDACTED] Communist are planning in near future to mount more attacks against American personnel and property as well as promote strikes and demonstrations.**
- IV. Objectives of terrorist campaign against Americans would appear to be motivated by:**
- A. Viet Minh desire to give impression that anti-American sentiment is widespread in South Vietnam;**
- B. to cast doubt on the government's ability to maintain law and order;**

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- C. and to undermine Dien's growing international prestige.**
- D. In this connection, Radio Hanoi has already broadcast that bombings "were only a manifestation of the discontent of a number of people in South Vietnam toward the insolent behavior of American military personnel."**

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